

Message Text

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QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 14169

PASS TO ARA/RPM JONES AND P.M. CLAPP

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, MX

SUBJECT: LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN REGIONAL CONVEN-
TIONAL WEAPONS LIMITATION MEETING

REF: AUG 25 JONES/HOWARD TEL CONVERSATION

1. SUMMARY: THE GOM SPONSORED LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIB-
BEAN CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS MEETING WAS HELD IN MEXICO CITY
AUGUST 21-24. ALL REGIONAL NATIONS EXCEPT CHILE WERE
INVITED TO THE CONFERENCE WHICH WAS ATTENDED BY REPRE-
SENTATIVES OF 20 AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS AND RECEIVED MES-
SAGES OF SUPPORT FROM TWO ADDITIONAL GOVERNMENTS. THE
CONFERENCE RECOMMENDED THAT A CONSULTATIVE MECHANISM BE
ESTABLISHED TO STUDY POSSIBLE REGIONAL LIMITATIONS TO
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CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFERS, TO EXAMINE POSSIBLE LIMITA-
TIONS AND/OR PROHIBITIONS OF CERTAIN TYPES OF CONVENTIONAL
WEAPONS, AND TO SERVE AS A FORUM FOR THE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS
REGARDING THE SUBJECT OF DISARMAMENT. THE CONFERENCE ALSO
RECOMMENDED THAT ALL NATIONS OF THE REGION WORK FOR DIS-
ARMAMENT AND FOR THE RECHANNELING OF ARMS EXPENDITURES TO
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT. A WORKING DOCUMENT PRE-
PARED BY THE GOM REGARDING THE PROBLEMS OF CONVENTIONAL
ARMS CONTROL WAS ACCEPTED FOR STUDY BY THE CONFERENCE
(TO BE REPORTED SEPTTEL). AN ENGLISH LANGUAGE COPY OF THE

MEETING' FINAL REPORT IS AS FOLLOWS. (END SUMMARY).

2. BEGIN TEXT OF REPORT ...QUOTE THE DULY ACCREDITED REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE FOLLOWING COUNTRIES OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: ARGENTINA, BOLIVIA, COLOMBIA, COSTA RICA, CUBA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, ECUADOR, SALVADOR, GUATEMALA, HAITI, HONDURAS, JAMAICA, MEXICO, NICARAGUA, PANAMA, PERU, SURINAM, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, URUGUAY AND VENEZUELA HELD INFORMAL MEETINGS AUGUST 21 TO 24, 1978 IN TLATELOLCO, MEXICO CITY, IN RESPONSE TO THE INVITATION EXTENDED BY THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT IN ORDER TO:

- (1) EXCHANGE OPINIONS ON THE COMING PREPARATORY CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF REACHING AGREEMENTS REGARDING PROHIBITIONS OR RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF SPECIFIC CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS, WHICH INCLUDES THOSE THAT MIGHT BE CONSIDERED EXCESSIVELY HARMFUL OR HAVING INDISCRIMINATE EFFECTS, AND THE POSSIBILITIES FOR ADOPTING A UNIFIED POSITION ON THE SUBJECT.
- (2) STUDY THE POSSIBLE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CONSULTATIVE MECHANISM AMONG THE LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES ON A) THE LIMITATION OF THE TRANSFER OF CERTAIN CONFIDENTIAL

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TYPES OF CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS TO LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN, AS WELL AS AMONG COUNTRIES OF THE AREA; AND B) THE ESTABLISHMENT OF LIMITATIONS AND/OR PROHIBITIONS IN THE USE OF CERTAIN TYPES OF CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS CONSIDERED EXCESSIVELY HARMFUL AND/OR HAVING INDISCRIMINATE EFFECTS.

3. THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE MEETING READ MESSAGES SENT BY THE MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF BARBADOS AND GUYANA, IN WHICH THEY EXPRESSED THEIR REGRET AT NOT HAVING BEEN REPRESENTED AT THE MEETING AND ALSO STATED THEIR WISHES FOR ITS COMPLETE SUCCESS.

4. BACKGROUND: ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT ANTECEDENTS TO THIS MEETING IS, WITHOUT DOUBT, THE DECLARATION OF AYACUCHO, WHICH WAS SIGNED IN 1974 BY EIGHT COUNTRIES FROM THE REGION AND RATIFIED IN 1978.

5. UPON EXTENDING THE INVITATION, THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT REMINDED THE LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES THAT IT DID SO BASED ON THE STATEMENTS MADE BY THE PRESIDENT OF MEXICO, MR. JOSE LOPEZ PORTILLO, ON MAY 17, 1978, DURING HIS HISTORIC VISIT TO THE SOVIET UNION, WHEN HE MADE REFERENCE TO THE FACT THAT, INsofar AS MEXICO IS CONCERNED, IT IS IMPLICIT IN THE TLATELOLCO TREATY TO CONTINUE ITS EFFECTS IN THE COLLABORATION FOR LIMITING CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS IN OUR REGION.

6. LESS THAN ONE MONTH LATER, AS HE PRONOUNCED THE OPENING ADDRESS AT THE FOURTH PERIOD OF SESSIONS OF THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL, THE MEXICAN PRESIDENT ONCE AGAIN STATED THE URGENT NEED FOR FINDING THE WAY TO CHANNEL THE RESOURCES PRESENTLY EARMARKED FOR WEAPONS TOWARD MORE NOBLE CAUSES, SUCH AS RESOLVING THE GRAVE PROBLEM OF HUNGER THAT PRESENTLY BESETS THE WHOLE WORLD.

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7. CONCLUSIONS OF THE MEETING: THESE COUNTRIES HELD A FRANK AND CONSTRUCTIVE EXCHANGE OF POINTS OF VIEW ON THE ITEMS ON THE AGENDA. THE DISCUSSIONS WERE UNANIMOUSLY CONSIDERED AN EXPANSION OF A DIALOGUE AMONG COUNTRIES WITH A COMMON DESTINY ABOUT A PROBLEM WHOSE IMPORTANCE IS FULLY ACKNOWLEDGED.

8. DURING THE DISCUSSIONS, THERE WAS WIDESPREAD AGREEMENT TO SUBMIT TO THE GOVERNMENTS FOR THEIR CONSIDERATION THE FOLLOWING ELEMENTS AS THE MOST SUITABLE BASE FOR FUTURE DIALOGUE:

- (1) THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A FLEXIBLE CONSULTATIVE MECHANISM, WHICH WOULD BE OPEN TO PARTICIPATION BY ALL STATES IN THE REGION.

AMONG OTHERS, THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES WOULD BE FURTHERED BY MEANS OF THIS CONSULTATIVE MECHANISM: A) TO STUDY AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE POSSIBLE LIMITATION OF THE TRANSFER OF CERTAIN TYPES OF CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS TO LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN, AS WELL AS AMONG COUNTRIES OF THE AREA; B) TO STUDY AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF LIMITATIONS AND/OR PROHIBITIONS IN THE CASE OF CERTAIN TYPES OF CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS, WHICH ARE CONSIDERED EXCESSIVELY HARMFUL AND/OR HAVING INDISCRIMINATE EFFECTS; AND C) TO SERVE AS A FORUM FOR EXCHANGING POINTS OF VIEW ON OTHER TOPICS RELATED TO DISARMAMENT NEGOTIATIONS, WITH A VIEW TO THE NEED FOR ACHIEVING GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT UNDER EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL CONTROL, TAKING AS A BASIS THE PRIORITIES ESTABLISHED IN THIS NEGOTIATION BY THE TENTH EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

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- THE GOVERNMENT OF MEXICO WILL ACT AS SECRETARIAT PRO TEMPORE UNTIL THE NEXT MEETING.
- (2) ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE DECLARATION

RATION OF AYACUCHO, WHICH WAS SIGNED IN 1974 BY EIGHT COUNTRIES FROM THE REGION AND RATIFIED IN 1978 BY THE CHANCELLORS OF THESE COUNTRIES, INsofar AS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PERMANENT ORDER OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND CO-OPERATION IS CONCERNED, AND THE CREATION OF CONDITIONS THAT WILL MAKE IT POSSIBLE TO EFFECTIVELY LIMIT ARMAMENTS IN ORDER TO CHANNEL THESE NEWLY AVAILABLE RESOURCES TOWARD THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONS.

- (3) A RESPECTFUL AND FRATERNAL EXHORTATION TO ALL LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS HISTORIC EFFORT WHILE BEARING IN MIND THAT THE RESOURCES THAT HAVE BEEN MADE AVAILABLE AS A RESULT OF THIS MEASURE, SHALL BE UTILIZED FOR THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE REGION.

- (4) TO SEEK, BY ALL AVAILABLE MEANS, A CONSENSUS IN ORDER TO FORMULATE RECOMMENDATIONS ON THIS SUBJECT.

- (5) TO REAFFIRM THE DESIRABILITY THAT, IN ADDITION TO THESE OBJECTIVES, THE MECHANISMS FOR SOLVING CONTROVERSIES BY EXCLUSIVELY PACIFIC MEANS BE STRENGTHENED.

9. OTHER TOPICS: LIKEWISE, THE DELEGATIONS OF THE COUNTRIES REPRESENTED TOOK SPECIAL INTEREST IN THE WORK DOCUMENT PRESENTED BY THE MEXICAN DELEGATION (ARCON/1WD. 1 REV 2), A COPY OF WHICH IS ATTACHED TO THIS REPORT. THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN ENRICHED BY SUGGESTIONS MADE AT THE MEETING AND PROPOSES A SERIES OF MEASURES FOR THE PROBLEM OF CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS, WHICH SHOULD BE CAREFULLY EXAMINED, NOT ONLY BY THOSE GOVERNMENTS REPRESENTED AT THIS MEETING, BUT BY ALL GOVERNMENTS OF THE REGION. (COMMENT: EMBASSY WILL REPORT SEPTEL).

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10. THE REPRESENTATIVES ALSO TOOK NOTE OF THE IMPORTANT INITIATIVE MADE BY THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT, WHICH EXPANDS THE REGIONAL DIALOGUE THAT SHOULD BE VIGOROUSLY CONTINUED WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF ALL LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STATES.

11. THE OFFER MADE BY THE GOVERNMENT OF COSTA RICA TO SERVE AS HEADQUARTERS FOR A POSSIBLE PERMANENT SECRETARIAT OF THE REGIONAL CONSULTATIVE MECHANISM ON CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS WAS WARMLY RECEIVED.

12. THE INVITATION EXTENDED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF ECUADOR TO HOLD THE NEXT OR ONE OF THE FUTURE MEETINGS DEALING WITH THIS MECHANISM IN ITS COUNTRY ALSO BROUGHT A FAVORABLE REACTION.

13. LASTLY, IT WAS AGREED THAT THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT, ACTING AS SECRETARIAT PRO TEMPORE, WILL FORMALLY SEND THIS

DOCUMENT AND ANNEXES TO ALL THE GOVERNMENTS OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN.

14. THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT, IN TURN, THANKED THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE REGION FOR HAVING ACCREDITED DELEGATIONS TO THIS IMPORTANT INFORMAL MEETING. (END TEXT).

15. IN A CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFFS, THE PRIME MOTIVATOR OF THE CONFERENCE, DIRECTOR IN CHIEF FOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION AFFAIRS OF THE MEXICAN SECRETARIAT OF FOREIGN RELATIONS, AMBASSADOR SERGIO GONZALEZ GALVEZ, CHARACTERIZED THE MEETING AS A GREAT SUCCESS. ALTHOUGH HE EXPRESSED HIS REGRET THAT NOT ALL INVITEES ATTENDED THE CONFERENCE, HE FEELS THAT THE CONFERENCE ESTABLISHED CONFIDENTIAL

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A FIRM BASE FOR FUTURE REGIONAL ACTION ON CONVENTIONAL ARMS LIMITATION, AS WELL AS FOR PRESENTING A REGIONAL PRESENTATION FOR THE UN PREPARATORY CONFERENCE ON CONVENTIONAL ARMS.

16. EMBASSY POUCHING CONFERENCE DOCUMENTS TO DEPARTMENT SOONEST. MCANINCH

UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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